

REMARKS

By the *Non-Final Office Action* of 31 October 2007, Claims 6-8 are pending in the Application, with Claims 6-8 being rejected. Applicant files this response solely to facilitate prosecution. As such, Applicant reserves the right to pursue claims of broader or similar scope as originally filed in a continuation application or other application after allowance of the present application. Applicant does not concede that the current or past rejections are correct and reserves the right to challenge such rejections later in prosecution or on appeal. Accordingly, any amendment, argument, or claim cancellation is not to be construed as abandonment or disclaimer of subject matter. Furthermore, by responding to the current rejection with arguments regarding the reference's many deficiencies, Applicant does not concede that the reference is prior art and hereby expressly reserves the right to antedate the reference in accordance with 37 CFR 1.131 in a later filed paper.

No new matter is believed introduced by the present *Response and Amendment*. It is respectfully submitted that the present Application is in condition for allowance for the following reasons.

1. Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 6-8 are rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Nakahara et al. (2003/0083151). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, because Nakahara et al. does not anticipate Applicant's claimed golf club head reciting, among other things, a reinforcing edge mask.

The Examiner stated that Nakahara et al. "discloses a golf club head comprising a primary body made from a metal or first material and a crown made from a reinforced plastic or second material." (*Non-Final Office Action*, p. 2). Additionally, the Examiner stated that the "crown includes a reinforcing (reinforced plastic) edge secured to the main body (figure 2c)." (*Id.*). It is respectfully submitted that Nakahara et al. fails to anticipate because, among other

things, the reinforced plastic crown does not rely upon a “reinforcing edge mask” as recited in Applicant’s Claims 6 and 8.

Applicant’s Claim 6 recites a “reinforced edge mask” bonded to the “periphery of the cover” and “secured to the primary body.” Similarly, Applicant’s Claim 8 recites a “reinforced edge mask,” which is “provided to bond the cover to the crown portion.” Therefore, both independent Claims 6 and 8 require a “cover” and a “reinforcing edge mask.”

Nakahara et al. fails to disclose the use of “reinforcing edge mask,” but rather relies upon a “crown portion 4” that is physically shaped to mate with the stainless steel body of the golf club head. As shown in Figure 2C, referenced by the Examiner, the Nakahara et al. “crown portion 4” is “formed in a double layer structure, and these layers can be stuck from the inside and the outside so as to cover the hole part X1 of the outer shell member X. In this case, the outer shell member Y made of the fiber reinforced plastic can be firmly fixed to the metal outer shell member X.” (Nakahara et al., ¶ 0022). Therefore, Nakahara et al. describes a crown portion 4 that relies upon a physical fitting rather than a “reinforcing edge mask” as required by Applicant’s Claims.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Nakahara et al. does not anticipate Claims 6 or 8; thus, Claims 6 and 8 are believed allowable, and Claim 7 depending on Claim 6, is also allowable.

2. Fees

This *Response and Amendment* is being filed within six months of the *Non-Final Office Action*. Therefore, other than the three-month petition for extension of time, for which a petition for extension of time has been filed herewith, no other fees are believed due. If any additional fee is due, please charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No.

20-1507.

CONCLUSION

By the present *Response and Amendment*, the Application has been in placed in full condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests early and favorable action. Should the Examiner have any further questions or reservations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned Attorney at 404.885.3695.

Respectfully submitted,

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on 30 April 2008

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